

## concentrating jobs creates more impoverished communities

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To: EIR Comments <eircomments@bayareametro.gov>

**\*External Email\***

To the DEIR,

If California were not such valuable real estate in certain places, what would be different?

Consider how Japan, France, and other more advanced nations choose to grow.

They look at the geography, they look at the economic need of a region, they decide what industries goes where, and what industries DON'T go where, and agencies are funded to **develop infrastructure first so that the vision is successful**: transportation, housing, services, schools, which establishes the basis for new jobs.

Obviously California does not do this. We of course chart our own course without regard to negative consequences, since we are a "new" society. Nonetheless ABAG/MTC plans remain retrograde and serve the wrong interests. Concentrating jobs in places that already have too many jobs impoverishes areas that need jobs, drives up cost of housing with less space for everyone who lives or will live here. More high rises does not produce a lower cost of housing but the opposite (Vancouver, New York, Hong Kong) and it means more heat, more traffic, more pollution, less water, less recreational options. And still no possibility for mass transit to serve public needs.

When was the last time any of you either got into or looked at a bus in the South Bay and saw ANY passengers? Nobody rides the bus and you think it's because we need more concentrated cities. But what if nobody wants to LIVE in concentrated cities any more? Covid has produced outflow into less populated places for this very reason, yet you push ahead. What people want, and what ABAG/MTC is planning are at odds. Look at the interactive map below:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2021-citylab-how-americans-moved/>

We need to create economic equity: we need to stop pushing growth, downsize this region, put jobs in places that need them, and let the bay area become more economically and culturally diverse. We need to let it ecologically recover (and rebalance its incredibly inflated housing cost) , and not continually emphasize "wealth creation" while claiming to protect the environment...

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Lilienstein